

Minutes of a Public Hearing held at the Wading River Community Center, North Wading River Road, Wading River, New York, on February 5th, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. , on the matter of the proposed LILCO transmission lines in the Town of Riverhead.

Present:

George G. Young, Councilman
Francis E. Menendez, Councilman
John Lombardi, Councilman
Jessie Tomlinson, Councilwoman.

Absent: Allen M. Smith, Supervisor

Also present: Peter S. Danowski, Jr. , Town Attorney.

There were 66 people in attendance.

Helene M. Block, Town Clerk, announced that Supervisor Allen M. Smith is ailing and has a 103 degree temperature and that he sends his regrets that he is unable to be present.

The Town Clerk then said that due to the absence of the Supervisor the members of the Town Board will designate a temporary Chairman by motion and vote.

Councilman Menendez offered the following resolution which was seconded by Councilman Lombardi.

RESOLVED, That in the absence of the Supervisor, Councilman George G. Young, be and is hereby designated Temporary Chairman for the Public Hearing of February 5th, 1976.

The vote, Councilman Lombardi, Yes, Councilwoman Tomlinson, Yes, Councilman Menendez, Yes, Councilman Young, Yes, and Supervisor Smith, Absent.

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Chairman Young then called the Hearing to Order and requested the Town Clerk to produce the necessary affidavits and also to read the ground rules of this hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. .

The Town Clerk submitted affidavits of publishing and posting Public Notice on the proposed LILCO Transmission lines in the Town of Riverhead, to be held at the Wading River Community Center, Wading River, N. Y. , on February 5th, 1976 at 7:30 P. M.

The affidavits were ordered placed on file.

The ground rules as published were read.

Chairman Young declared the Hearing open and called on Edward Walsh, Esquire, representing the Long Island Lighting Company to speak at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. continued:

EDWARD WALSH, Attorney for LILCO, spoke as follows:

"It is unfortunate that we all have to come out on such an evening, and that is one of the reasons that I propose to be brief. As I see it, my function at these meetings is to set the framework of the discussion and I'd like to do so by telling you that there are two proceedings, going on in the Town of Riverhead at the moment. The one is called an Article 8 Proceeding which was created by the Legislature, two or three years ago, to determine where generation stations should be sited in the State of New York. We're only inferentially concerned with that this evening. We're concerned with it because if the siting board which determines where these generating plants ought to be built, determines that a station would be built and that it should be built at Jamesport. Then the transmission lines running from Jamesport to Calverton would be erected.

Now, what we're primarily concerned with this evening, is another proceeding that was created by the Legislature one or two years ago, called an Article 7 Proceeding and the purpose of that is to determine where transmission lines are to be sited. Where they should be located in those communities where generating stations are built. How you get from the generating station, with the power, over these transmission lines to the consumer. And in that proceeding, the role of the lighting company is to make an analysis, both an economical and engineering and an environmental analysis and make a recommendation to the PSC, which decides which route should be used, what the lighting company thinks should be the route of the transmission lines.

Now in this particular instance, they have proposed as their major route, a route that, and I'll refer to the map on the wall, behind the members of the Town Board.

Mr. Walsh pointed out the proposed route on the map.

He continued by saying: "If the plant site is to be Jamesport site then this transmission line running from Jamesport to Calverton would be built. If it's not sited, then that section of the lines would not be built. The other sections would be built, if the Board decides that the second and third units, proposed for Jamesport, should be built at Shoreham.

Now let me just go back to the Article 8 for a moment and tell you that that involves a determination of where the station is to be built. In the proceeding, the lighting company must recommend what they think the prime site should be. We recommended Jamesport. We must also indicate where we think the alternate site should be. The alternate proposal is Shoreham, so that if the plants were not built at Jamesport, they would be built at Shoreham and then the transmission lines would be somewhat different. As I indicated before, you would not have a transmission line running from Jamesport to Calverton. It wouldn't be necessary.

Now in the transmission line proceedings, there is again a requirement that the lighting company show alternate routes and we have showed, in this proceeding, alternate underground and alternate routes for the overhead transmission lines. We have proposed, again on the basis of an economical and environmental analysis, overhead lines for these plants. The purpose of our meetings tonight, last night and the night before, was to enable residents from the community to suggest alternates for the transmission lines. We are assuming that a plant is going to be built and the purpose then is to recommend where the transmission lines should be located. "

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. -continued:

CHAIRMAN YOUNG stated that after everyone has spoken that registered to speak, there would be a five minute recess to allow late comers to register.

He then stated that the Town Board would appreciate the testimony being given under oath, as it might be used in the Town's presentation to the PSC.

JOSEPH COLEMAN, Riverhead, representing the L. I. Agriculture Marketing Association read the following statement:

"My name is Joseph H. Coleman. I am the manager of I. M. Young and Company, a division of the Lebanon Chemical Corporation of Riverhead, New York. This firm was founded in 1910 and has been a factor in Long Island agriculture for over 65 years. I have been with the firm since 1936, having served in every capacity of the company's operations for almost 40 years. I have served in various capacities in organizations related to agriculture. Among those are as past president of the L. I. Agricultural Marketing Association, past chairman of the Potato Division, United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, Washington, D. C., to list a few. Because of this background and experience I, with modesty, consider myself well-versed and very familiar with the agricultural industry on Long Island.

I would like to make the following statement and respectfully request it become a part of the record of this hearing.

Our firm, the oldest supplier of agricultural products and purchaser of produce on Long Island, would like to go on record as being opposed to the erection either above or below the ground of the proposed power lines through the farm areas between the hamlets of Calverton and Jamesport. It is our opinion that the placing of these lines would cause great harm to the agriculture industry of this area.

In addition to the possible elimination of acreage, either temporarily or permanently, several other factors are related to this situation. The use of wheel irrigation, the practice of helicopter spraying would be seriously hampered - even eliminated on the acreage physically located within the corridor. The erection of the suggested power lines would have an adverse effect on the efficient, economical farming operations on those farms involved. It is an established fact that costs to produce a crop on Long Island are at the present time extremely high and to add in any way to those costs places the Long Island farmer in an adverse position in regard to competition with other producing areas.

Please do not misunderstand me - I am not opposed to progress, but I am greatly concerned with any project that so profoundly affects our industry. Farming has been and should continue to be a vital factor within the Town of Riverhead. Many businesses such as agri-business firms, banks, and other related functions would be seriously affected if impediments of this type are permitted. It is my opinion that people of good conscience should be able to sit down and resolve this problem in a manner that great damage will not be placed directly on one segment of the people of this town and indirectly on the related industries and businesses so closely associated with agriculture.

I appreciate and thank you for allowing me the time to make this statement. "
(End of Mr. Coleman's statement)

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:

Mr. Coleman also read a statement from JERRY SHULMAN, President of the Long Island Agricultural Marketing Assn. , Inc. , 119 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, N Y. Mr. Shulman was unable to attend and requested Mr. Coleman to read his statement at the Hearing. The statement was addressed to the Riverhead Town Board and read as follows:

"The Long Island Agricultural Marketing Association, which represents twenty shippers who handle the bulk of the produce grown in Suffolk County, strongly protest against the proposed erection of power lines from Calverton to Jamesport. Along with other interested organizations who are attempting to maintain a strong, healthy economic agricultural picture in Suffolk County, we feel that the proposed power lines would have a very detrimental effect.

In order for growers in Suffolk County to compete against other areas, they must be able to produce their crops under the best possible working and economic conditions. This type of transmission line would interfere and disrupt various types of dusting, spraying and irrigation thus adding to cost of application. In addition, these power lines would reduce the size of fields and in working these smaller fields, you would be adding to the farmers' production costs.

The movement of vehicles by the lighting company down inspection roads which usually accompany this type of transmission line would also tend to increase the spread of plant diseases and insects.

It is for these foregoing reasons that we hope that the Town Board rejects the L. I. Lighting Company's request for transmission lines which traverse agricultural property. " (End of statement).

WILLIAM NOHEJL, representing the L. I. Farm Bureau read the following statement:

"I am going to speak on the LILCO'S transmission corridor from Calverton to Jamesport. The corridor as proposed would be 240 feet in width and 10 miles in length. The prime route consists of 125 to 150 feet steel poles spaced 80 feet apart abreast and 600 to 800 feet in length. Also possibly included in the proposal of a two lane access road the entire length. As an alternate LILCO has presented an underground route which recently has been fluctuating in various widths.

I had the honor to assist John V. N. Klein, County Executive in the first phases of the Suffolk County Farm Preservation, which is finally about to be implemented. Two years of work had gone into designing the mechanics and areas to be preserved.

LILCO's proposal transmission corridor is indirect opposition to this farm preservation program. This transmission line as outlined would cross some of the most productive farmlands of our country.

The modern era of agriculture cannot exist with transmission lines whether above ground on high towers or buried underground. I have or members of my committee have informed you of the difficulties they would pose to large machinery, aerial spray application, wheel-move irrigation, etc.

Intoday's Newsday, it states that the State Agriculture Commissioner Roger Barber will enter into the public hearings in April and become an active intervenor on behalf of the farmer. "

Mr. Nohejl then introduced the article into his testimony.

Mr. Nohejl continued to say: "Also in our Ad today in the Watchman Traveler, it indicates that the L. I. Farm Bureau feels that the burden is upon the Town and LILCO

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. -continued:(Mr. Nohejl continues:)

to develop an alternative route. For that reason the Farm Bureau is not including the L. I. Sound as a possible route. Again I am stating on behalf of the Farm Bureau that we are united to oppose any transmission lines above or below the ground crossing the farmlands".

Mr. Nohejl then showed the Town Board the Farm Bureau's ad in the L. I. Watchman and continued speaking as follows: "I am going to speak now as a resident of Wading River in regard to the line that comes from Calverton to Wading River.

I have a farm in Yaphank and I have these monsters on it. They are ugly things and I'd hate like hell to have them in my Town. "

EDWARD PIERZCHANOWSKI spoke from the floor and stated his opposition to the transmission lines.

JOHN CONDZELLA stated that he farmed with his family in Wading River and just wanted to go on record as being opposed to the construction of any additional power lines going through the fields in the Town of Riverhead.

MRS. SARAH WOOD was sworn in and spoke on Mr. Walsh's statement regarding the building of the plant in Shoreham, if the Jamesport site was turned down.

She then stated that she didn't think that that threat should have been made because as it stands now, she felt that the people in Wading River would strongly oppose any plant in Shoreham.

MR. WALSH stated that the reason he made that statement was because the law required LILCO to pick an alternate site, even though they recommend Jamesport.

He further stated that it wouldn't be fair if he didn't mention all the alternatives that may be involved in the final determination.

NATHANIEL A. TALMAGE, JR., Riverhead, was sworn in and continued as follows: "I am a partner in the farm of H. R. Talmage and Son at 36 Sound Ave., Riverhead. The farm that we have is 400 acres, in which approximately 320 is being farmed with 240 acres in potatoes. We are not directly in line with the power line, but feel that anything that will affect Long Island Agriculture will also affect us, because if it's moved, it might affect us. We, like most farmers, are opposed to this power line, if it traverses agricultural land.

Historically, our farm was the first to have irrigation on it and one of the first to have the wheel irrigation. As we think about this moving irrigation, we have to think about our labor situation. In the economic balance that the farmer is in and as we move to smaller farms, as caused by these power lines, I think we'll find that the balance will fall away from the farmer. He cannot afford to use hand labor to move hand irrigation. One man can move 1/4 to 1/2 mile line approximately 15 to 20 minutes as it might take an hour or two for a crew of maybe two or three men to move the same line. This is economics against the farmer. We're moving toward a new type of irrigation in the travelling system in which we will use guns that shoot water with a projection of approximately 27 degrees. The water from this gun could

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P. M. - continued:(Mr. Talmage continues:)

hit a transmission line and if it did, and it's in a steady stream, I think the power could come back to the gun. I think this should be considered and I think we have to consider this as a means of opposing.

To get back to the labor situation, we've talked about using helicopters and the labor that we're using on our farms today, besides the owner, is not considered to be a high type labor. Unfortunately, people have the attitude that the labor on a farm is a low grade type labor and if you have to put them on sprayers, and they're using some very high toxic type chemicals and if a man does not know how to use them, he can get himself in trouble very quickly, due to winds, particularly, if he happens to be in the path of some of these new highly toxic sprays. This is one of the reasons that we're using helicopters. If you ever tried to move irrigation on a Sunday and tried to round up a labor crew to do it, you wouldn't find it.

Our farms are businesses just like LILCO or Grummans or Hazeltine or any other business on Long Island and if we take a power line and run it through our farms, you're running a line through our business. It's like taking the Grumman plant and cutting it in half. It can't run.

Speaking in a different light, I'm also the sales manager for Tryac Truck and Equipment Co., in Riverhead, one of the major farm equipment suppliers to the farmers on Long Island and we notice very directly the economic effects to the farmer as to the efficiency and stability of these farmers. When a farmer starts to lost money, we feel it very directly. To run a farm economically and efficiently a farmer has to have large fields and large farm equipment. So for that reason too, we strongly oppose these lines. "

MRS. CONSTANCE LO MONTE stated that she opposed the proposed transmission lines.

She further stated that her home is approximately 1500 feet from the proposed northern route of the line and she not only considered them to be an eyesore, but a constant interference to TV and a definite health hazard, because of the high voltage.

She then suggested that if the lines must go through, have them underground, for all the above reasons, as well as the damaging effect on the farming industry.

CHARLES WOOD, President of the Wading River Civic Association, was sworn in and stated that the Association wished to go on record as opposing any proposed overhead transmission lines passing through Wading River and further added that present power lines already pass too close to their elementary school.

He then talked about the power being shipped upstate and out-of-state and continued by saying that there was a very simple alternative - no transmission lines were needed because the power was not needed.

He concluded by saying that he felt anyone who was forced to go on Cable-vision because of the presence of these lines, should be reimbursed by LILCO.

ROBERT C. YOUNG, Riverhead, spoke about the hazards of putting the transmission lines under ground, saying that the land would never be put back the way it was originally.

He further stated that while this huge trench is being dug (10 miles by 75 to 100 feet), how were people supposed to cross from one section of their property to the other.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Robert Hartmann, Riverhead, was sworn in and stated that he was a farmer on Sound Avenue.

He then stated that he would like to inform the farmers a little bit more about certain details that they may not know about.

He continued by talking about the discrepancy in the dimensions for the corridor for both the underground and overhead transmission lines and the amount of cables that would have to be laid in 1982, 1984, 1987 and 1989, thus destroying four growing seasons.

He further stated: "The farmers are in no position to offer alternative routes. This is not our job. We can't offer alternative routes to go over our friend's and neighbor's land, whether they be a farmer or a homeowner. Only LILCO could be that cold-blooded to say this is where it's going to go. Truly, the responsibility of coming up with alternate routes should be up to LILCO. They're getting enough money to well afford to satisfy the public which they serve."

He then asked several questions as follows:

"Who is going to reimburse the farmers for the perpetual costs connected with this corridor?

What will they be if the plant is sold to a State Power Authority?

What guarantees do we have regarding each of these questions?"

Chairman Young stated that the second question was out of order because they were only discussing the transmission lines, at this time.

Mr. Walsh interceded and stated that he felt both questions were pertinent and should be answered at this time.

Chairman Young acquiesced and told Mr. Walsh to proceed.

Mr. Walsh responded as follows: "The answer, with respect to reimbursement, is of course, if LILCO buys a piece of property or buys an easement or right-of-way, they would have to pay the farmer for all the damages that are caused by the taking.

Now, as far as the tax advantages, I'll just say this, that if the plant is built in Jamesport, based on the present assessment, the Lighting Company Plant would be paying approximately 80% of the taxes in the Township. In other words, as I recollect the evidence in that case, there was an estimate that in 1985, the Town Budget would be something like \$8 million and we estimate, based on the assessed value of the plant and the assessed value of all the rest of the property in the Town, that the Lighting Company would be paying about \$6.2 million. The same 80% would be applicable to the school district, that's generally speaking, what we estimate that the tax effect would be.

Now, the next question you asked was, 'Suppose the plant was sold to a State Authority?' If that happened, of course, the State Authority is exempt and there would be no taxes. We don't anticipate that happening for several reasons."

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Walsh continued: "One, where the utilities in the State of New York realizing that the raising of funds to build these plants that are needed is a problem, are forming a utility company that will own the generating plant, such as Jamesport, and they will own it and not the State, and they will continue to pay the taxes. That's one way in which we are attempting to insure that these plants will remain in private hands. We have entered into an agreement with the New York State Electric and Gas Company and the reason for that agreement is that we're building two units now. The first one we anticipate we will need for our own Long Island purposes in 1983, not all of it, but most of it. We will sell that which we do not use until we grow into the plant, which will be about 1985. We think we'll need a second unit somewhere in 1987 or 88. It's less expensive for us to build two units at once, because you have all the labor there. So that's why we're proposing two units at once. We're selling half of each unit to the New York State Electric and Gas Company, on condition that when we need a second unit, which we anticipate in 1988, we will be able to buy one of two plants that they're building. Basically, the purpose of that is to ease our financial burden in building the plants, because as you all know, it's difficult to get the money, in the stock and bond market, that's needed to build plants at this time. And this is the method that we are utilizing to ease our way and the consumer's way through this construction project. After that long speech, the answer is, if a State Agency, by any chance, took over this site, there would be no taxes. We don't anticipate that this will happen. And at the present time, the power authority, I believe, has not had authority to own generating plants in this area, only in upstate areas."

Mr. Hartmann asked about the guarantees.

Mr. Walsh stated that there are no guarantees on anything in this world.

Mr. Hartmann stated that he has been a farmer all his life and has worked around obstructions, as have many others present, but there was no way to adequately reimburse the farmers for what they're going to have to go through.

He then spoke of how the transmission lines would affect the cost and efficiency of spraying by helicopter.

At 8:30 P.M., Chairman Young recessed the Hearing for five minutes, to allow those coming in late and wishing to speak, to register with the Town Clerk.

Chairman Young reconvened the Hearing at 8:35P.M. and asked the Town Clerk to re-read the ground rules for those not present at the onset of the Hearing.

He then asked if anyone else wished to be heard and the following responded:

Bill Grover, 44 Further Lane, Riverhead, was sworn in and stated that he was a Sales Manager for Agway and proceeded with the following statement:

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Grover continued: "Agway has a substantial investment in Long Island Agriculture and a keen interest in anything that may directly or indirectly affect agriculture and the many associated industries.

We are concerned with the elimination of several hundred acres of prime farm land, capable of producing ½ million dollars of excellent fresh produce for nearby markets.

We are concerned with the inevitable economic hardship this proposal will have on the many farms involved. Long Island growers have consistently demonstrated their ability to produce excellent quality products competitively in an area that ranks among the highest in terms of cost of production per acre. The grower has had to maximize his efficiency to survive.

This corridor will affect many farms and the farmer's ability to retain his competitive edge. Fields broken by any obstructions will surely lead to inefficiency and result in loss of production of many additional acres.

In closing, please understand, Agway is not against progress. We recognize the growing need for power. Without it, no one survives. We question, however, whether this proposal is the correct solution to a major problem."

Faye Anderson, Middle Road, Riverhead, was sworn in and proceeded to speak on the fact that the people of Riverhead are going to have to pay for the construction of these transmission lines and power plant and ultimately, the farmer will be paying for his own destruction.

She then went on to stress that the transmission lines will not only cut through a sixty-six acre farm that they own, but also a ninety acre farm that they rent, making it most doubtful that they could continue farming.

She concluded by stating that four of her five children are boys and there will be nothing left for them to farm, in the years to come, if these lines are allowed to go through.

Doris Rhodes, representing Wading River on the Riverhead First Committee, was sworn in and stated that she felt the lines should be put in the Long Island Sound, since the power was going to be shipped across the Sound anyway.

She concluded by stating adamantly: "Sink them or get rid of them!"

Arthur Schneider, President of Island Helicopters, was sworn in and stated that his company supplies the trucks, helicopters and materials that spray most of the potatoes on Long Island. He then presented the following statement: "It would be naive of me to stand before you tonight and tell you that my pilots cannot work effectively in fields where power lines and tower structures are situated. It can be done. To over-simplify this statement, I say to you that it is difficult and requires absolute concentration, to say the least. If you have seen our helicopters working the east end of the island over the last 12 years, you know that we do exist with these structures and lines."

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Schneider continued: "The name of the game is effectiveness and economics. In our business, the economic factor is productivity. To put a helicopter into a field to spray, one must give consideration to approximately 11 factors that will determine productivity. Add power lines and tower structures and you increase that by two factors. Total consideration of these factors brings you to a mathematical equation of cost. There is approximately 20% increase in cost difference when spraying an obstructed field as opposed to one with no obstructions. The effectiveness of application around obstructions is also reduced by approximately 20%.

I have been informed that a statement has been made and is on record that where a problem might exist by using a helicopter in a particular field, the farmer can go back to using his ground spraying apparatus. Now, you must realize some of this apparatus was put back in the barn 12 years ago, if in fact, the farmer has ground apparatus at all, that's functional. Through years of continued research, which is too complex and lengthy to go into here, I will just state that we have effected methods to increase the yields of our fields. It has been scientifically documented by field tests in Prince Edward Island that the use of a helicopter, rather than the ground sprayer, shows an increase in yield of potatoes at a minimum of 10% per acre. Now, what does that mean to the farmer?

100 A		
300 H.W.	=	Factor of 10%
<u>30,000</u>		27,000 H.W.
3,000 H.W.		Which is cost effective
3,000 H.W. at \$5.00	=	\$15,000 increase!

The farmer never would see that \$15,000 if he did not use the helicopter. Now he doesn't just put that in his pocket and head for the horse track, nor does he run down to Wall Street - that's a gross figure!! He's got to pay me - in round figures, 100¢ for 10 sprays cost him \$3,000. Take that off and you have a cost effective number now of \$12,000. WOW!! He's made \$12,000 by using the helicopter. Well!! That's not how it is either.

Before the helicopter, the farmer only averaged perhaps 6 to 8 sprays a year. Why so little as compared to the number he sprays now? Because he could not get his spray rig into the field because of a possible drought condition, or it rained so much, his rig would get stuck or sink. When the farmer sprays with his spray-rig, he is forced to make a trade-off. As you can see, it's a negative trade-off. Now, he's still got this \$12,000 he made by using the helicopter. Where do you suppose that goes? Fact of the matter is, he's already spent it. He's invested it right back where he got it from - his potatoes. He bought additional materials to protect his crop and increased the number of sprays so as to guarantee a good crop. As we all know well, when we have good yields here, every business and every individual benefits. When we don't, we all know what that's like. If you don't, look around and find a Banker! Find an Appliance Salesman - a Car Salesman. Ask him. You'll get an absolute picture of what good yield means!"

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Schneider's statement continues: "The statement, to go back to the ground rig, as opposed to utilizing a modern agricultural tool, namely the helicopter, is a statement made by someone who obviously does not understand modern agriculture or whose research leaves much to be desired.

We are now celebrating our Country's Bicentennial, our 200th Birthday. Think of that. 200 years old. A real milestone no matter how you measure it. Happy Birthday America!! I would like to share a thought with you this evening as we enter into our year of celebration for this occasion. The thought I would like to share with you, is one I have not heard mentioned yet. I bring this to your attention because of its significance, at this point in time. Our Politicians, namely our President and Secretary of State, are scurrying all over the world for every kind of meeting you can conceive, all in the name of Peace!! To achieve detente, to lessen aggression. You name it and we are trying to do it all and well we should."

At this point, Mr. Schneider read the following excerpt from a Newsday editorial: "What do we do about the food gap? In 1973, after secretly buying up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entire United States wheat crop, the Soviet Union fostered its own interest by sending India two million tons of grain. Meanwhile, the United States had trouble meeting its own grain commitment to India, because of shortages resulting from the Russian wheat deal. In the lessons of 1973, when American food became an instrument of Soviet foreign policy they are even more pertinent today. Food like oil is rapidly becoming the new point of power in the world, but the United States doesn't seem to realize it." (End of excerpt from Newsday)

Mr. Schneider continued: "Ladies and Gentlemen, give what I am about to say, serious thought. Our Statesmen are using all the tools at their disposal to try and slow down the build-up of bombs, missiles and delivery systems for bombs. They are not, however, giving full consideration nor are we here, to the fact that we.... We America....have the ace in the hole. We! We America! have the trump card. We have something that other countries cannot put on a war head and send over here - something we all know other countries want!! Do you know what that is? It is protein, it is food, it is grain, it is potatoes, it is all those things that America can produce in abundance that no other country can. Can YOU BELIEVE! Our Long Island potato can be a weapon? If you don't think so, then you have never been hungry. When your belly grumbles from lack of anything in it, whoever you are, wherever you are - it can change your thinking profoundly! What makes this a weapon!! It's the ability of the American farmer to out-produce all other agricultural operations anywhere in the world. They accomplish this through better productivity by employing new methods and techniques. What in the world does this have to do with LILCO wanting to run some towers and lines through some farm land here in Riverhead? I will answer that for you."

Mr. Schneider read the following excerpt from the News-Review:

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

"The Long Island Farm Bureau will be an active intervenor in future hearings of the P.S.C. on the LILCO Transmission Lines. But their's is an uphill battle. Historically, LILCO need only hint to the public that the lines are important to insure future energy needs, and a large segment of the public will support any proposal, however injurious it may be to some." (End of excerpt from News-Review)

Mr. Schneider continued his statement: "This is frustrating. This can be the straw that breaks the farmer's back! Put yourself in the farmer's shoes. He, his Father and probably his Father's Father have worked that land for years. A Public Service Company comes along and says--sorry, we want to run some towers and lines through your property. The farmer says--'I'm too busy growing a crop! Buzz off!!!' Oh! but we have the right to come through here and put this stuff across your field. Now, as things happen the farmer will holler like hell. He will be told he will have his day to speak, will be given hearings, such as we are involved in right now, but because of the authority of the Public Service Companies, they're going through anyway! That's what this newspaper concludes! Now, things like this don't just happen here on Long Island. The Public Service Companies and their likes do this all over the Country. There is a point some place where the people just give up and say the hell with it. They're too big. The fight is too great. They just plain quit. When our farmers give up and quit, we have lost the greatest contribution to the good life we all share. When our farmers give up and quit, we lose our trump card, we've lost that ace in the hole. When the aggressionists countries of the world knock at our door for food, which make no mistake they will, how are you going to be able to tell them let's deactivate your war machine first and I will give you the potatoes you need to survive! You won't be able to do it if the farmers give up. One of the real possibilities for world peace is our productive agriculture. Believe it or not, in this day and age, I heard the statement made - 'Why do you need farmers anyway. If you need potatoes, peas, corn, bread all you have to do is run down to the local grocery store and buy some.' Now, without question, that is a guy that really doesn't understand what's really going on!

So again I say, Happy Birthday America. Land of the Free, Home of the Brave. Land of the Free? Free if you don't have a Public Service Company breathing down your neck to put their equipment across your property and Home of the Brave, Brave if in fact you have enough bravery left to fight the long ensuing battle.

It is imperative we keep our farmers in agriculture, not run them from their farms when there are alternatives! I think the officials of the Town of Riverhead, as well as the officials of the County of Suffolk, and LILCO, owe absolute responsibility not only to our own resident farmers, but to all of us!! I think that productive agricultural land should not be disturbed and that an alternative should be effected."

Gordon Hygom, Randall Road, Wading River, stated that he was opposed to these lines through Wading River.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

He then stated that there is already one power line 95 feet from their school and what would happen to the safety of their kids, if one of these lines fell.

He went on to stress facts about TV and radio interference and the unsafe conditions connected with the presence of the lines, not only to farmers, machines and children.

He continued by citing different ways that other countries have used to solve similar energy problems and concluded by saying that the cables should be buried and buried close.

Robert Donnelly, Little Bay Road, Wading River, asked about the width of the existing corridor between Calverton and Wildwood and further if it was wide enough to accomodate any lines that would travel that route, either aerially or buried.

He then asked what the cost factors involved would be, aerially vs underground vs the proposed water route between the two stations.

Thirdly, he asked what substantiating studies were made to prove these projected figures.

He concluded by saying that he was interested in knowing what percentage of the power, not used, would be sold off, as Mr. Walsh had mentioned earlier.

Mr. Angleman, an Engineer with LILCO, responded to the first question saying that the right-of-way between the Calverton and Wildwood substations, in most instances, was 110 feet wide, the one exception would be the Rocky Point area.

He further stated that he knew of no plans to ever expand the corridor to accomodate additional lines.

He then commented on the cost of overhead vs underground lines saying that it is generally four to six times more costly to put the lines underground. Underground lines in the water would be four times again as expensive as underground on land. It would work out to fifteen to twenty times more expensive in the water than overhead on land.

He continued by saying that LILCO did make studies on the underground and underwater routes and found them to be so expensive, that no further thought was given to them.

Mr. Walsh replied to the last question saying that in 1983, the surplus would be at least 50%, in 1985, Long Island would be using all of the plant, with no surplus and by 1988, a second unit would be needed.

Mr. Donnelly then asked if Mr. Walsh's projections, on the amount of power needed, were the very latest and further mentioned population growth.

Mr. Walsh stated that population growth does not necessarily go along with power growth because the people on the island at the present time are using more electricity.

Joseph Loughlin, High View Drive, Wading River, and President of the Wading River Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber wished to go on record as opposing the present proposed transmission corridor.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Vernon Wells, Jr., Northville, Riverhead, stated that nine of the eleven farms that he and his family operate would be affected by this transmission line.

He went on to say that two of those farms have a history of a bad golden nematode problem and he felt that if a trench was cut through the farms, that other farms would be infected with this dreaded pest.

He then told of the history of his farm and different projection points found on the farm that date back thousands of years to past civilizations of indians that once inhabited this area.

He concluded his statement with a short poem written by his Uncle:

"One man looked up, the other down.
One saw all blue, the other brown.
Though they stood there side by side,
Each argued in his stubborn pride,
That he saw all there was to see.
Entirely wrong, my friend, said he.
Sad, but they could never agree."

Mr. Wells then said that he hoped LILCO and the Town could agree.

Emil Breitenbach, Philips Lane, Aquebogue, asked several questions, as follows:

"If the transmission lines are buried underground, how many lines would be necessary to equal the capacity of the 345KV line above the ground? What would the spacing be for each line buried to dissipate the heat and how deep would each line be buried? When will the Supervisor grant the public a scheduled meeting or meetings in reference to whether we need a nuclear plant in our Town?"

Mr. Angleman answered the first two questions, as follows:

"The underground proposal in this application does not electrically match the overhead system.

Now, the overhead system consists of four circuits. To electrically match the four circuits, you would need twelve underground cable pipes, but that is not the proposed alternate in this application.

The proposed alternate underground is for five pipes. The spacing for any system that we proposed would be 10ft. on center. The depth of the system, nominally would be 36" of cover. However, there may be obstructions that may require us to deviate, somewhat, perhaps deeper, perhaps shallower."

As to the third question, Chairman Young, replied that the Board was hopeful that the transmission line problem would be dealt with quickly, so that hearings on the next phase, being the plant, could be set up.

He then asked if anyone else wished to speak, as all those who registered to speak had already done so.

Mrs. Lois West, Wading River, spoke about Mr. Walsh's presentation and asked him to explain which economic and environmental factors LILCO weighed the most in their considerations for proposed routes.

She further asked why LILCO couldn't build underground lines for Riverhead, if they had for other people.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Walsh responded to both questions, saying that he didn't know which factor carried the most weight, economic or environmental because it was a combination of the two.

In reference to the second question, Mr. Walsh stated that if Mrs. West was referring to Nassau County, it was necessary to put those cables underground because it was so built up, there was no room for overhead lines, without taking houses.

Mrs. Sarah Wood stated from the floor that she did not understand Mr. Walsh's last statement about the taking of houses in Nassau.

Mr. Walsh explained that in order to build overhead lines, LILCO would have had to acquire numerous houses along the right-of-way, so as a result, they put the cables underground, under the streets.

Councilwoman Tomlinson spoke of the cost of the overhead lines as being cheaper than the underground and asked Mr. Walsh if he was including maintenance of the lines in that cost or just construction.

Mr. Walsh replied that he felt it was a combination of both.

Mr. Angelman stated that actually, the cost of maintenance to both the overhead and underground was a minor part of the economic consideration, but stated further that LILCO considered the maintenance costs of both the overhead and underground to be equal.

Councilwoman Tomlinson then asked if there was anywhere in the Country that had underwater lines and further asked if LILCO had compared costs with these projects in their considerations.

Mr. Walsh responded by saying that LILCO has an underwater line from their Northport plant to Connecticut and have applied for an underwater line from their Glen Wood site over to Westchester and have met with a lot of opposition, but nevertheless, those lines are what LILCO based their underwater costs.

Councilwoman Tomlinson further asked Mr. Walsh if the trouble in getting the Glen Wood underwater line had anything to do with why an underwater route was not included in the Jamesport application.

Mr. Walsh stated that it had been suggested that a line be run underwater from Jamesport to Shoreham, but being an Attorney, he would never recommend that route to a client, because he foresaw tremendous difficulties in the construction of such a line.

He further stated that it would involve a great deal of dredging all along the beach front from Shoreham to Jamesport, disruption of the beaches and problems with Northville Docks that would prove to be very costly.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Councilman Menendez then spoke as follows: "Mr. Walsh, during the hearing before Mr. Reed, recently, our Supervisor Mr. Smith and Mr. Danowski cross-examined some of your witnesses and one of the questions that was asked was about the relative costs of overhead, underground and underwater.

Now, at that time, Allen Smith stated that he wasn't interested in percentages, he wanted dollars, so your witness said take X amount of dollars for overhead, between three and four times more for underground and for underwater, it would be ten times the cost of overhead. Now, you come out with that it's going to be twenty times."

Mr. Walsh stated that he was not present during those hearings, but he believed that Mr. Angleman was the witness who testified about those costs and so would let him reply to that.

Mr. Angleman stated: "The question that Councilman Menendez is referring to has to do with electrical equivalents and proposed alternates and I repeat again that the proposed alternate is not the electrical equivalent of the proposed overhead, so there will be differences in the comparison of the cost that Mr. Matson gave and I believe Mr. Matson gave that without any reference material, whatsoever."

Councilman Menendez stated that he was talking under oath.

Mr. Angleman replied: "Yes Sir, but I wish I could emphasize enough the fact that we are continually talking about electrical equivalents and the proposed underground alternate and they are not the same. Perhaps I can give you the average cost that we have used in the application for the 345KV double circuit overhead line. It's about \$800,000 per double circuit mile. The electrical equivalent would require six pipes at \$700,000 a mile or a total of \$4,200,000 a mile.

Now, our proposed alternate consisting of five pipes at about \$800,000 or \$4,000,000 a mile for the proposed underground alternate. Now, I'm talking just between Jamesport and Calverton as opposed to the proposed overhead line, which would be two times \$800,000. So you're talking of \$1,600,000 for overhead as opposed to \$4,000,000. So I believe the figures that we've given you people are not too far from what had been stated before. But you must be very specific, Sir, when you ask us for comparisons - are we talking about electrical equivalents or are we talking about the two proposals that we have put forth in our application. There is a considerable difference."

Gordon Hygom, Wading River, asked Mr. Walsh: "I'd like to know why, in the late '60's when you built Northport, you then went underground, the entire length of Huntington?"

Mr. Walsh replied: "Again, the proposal there was for an overhead line and we lost the battle in the courts and the courts ordered us to put them underground."

Joe Wall, Wading River, asked how LILCO could get by with only using half the casting for an underground line as opposed to an overhead line for the same plant and further if there were any statistics as to the safety record of servicing the underground line vs the overhead line?

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Angleman responded by saying that the cost of the underground lines was so much greater than overhead lines, that they must put in the absolute minimum capacity that will suffice to enable LILCO to reasonably operate the power units.

Mr. Nohejl stated from the floor that that answer didn't make sense.

Mr. Angleman then explained again.

Mr. Schneider asked if the circular size of the cable was the same for both the overhead and underground lines.

Mr. Angleman replied that the underground cable would be much larger, due to limited heat dissipation, insulation, etc.

Mr. Schneider asked what maximum capacity could be pumped through the 345KV line in free air.

Mr. Angleman responded by saying that each conductor was good for about 1400 AMPS, so each circuit of overhead was good for 2800 AMPS and each pipe of underground was good for very close to 1000AMPS.

Mr. Schneider then asked if any more than the 345KV was ever pumped through a suspended line.

Mr. Angleman replied that they didn't pump more through, but could pump more current in an emergency, if it was needed, for short period of time.

Mr. Schneider asked about the grounding of the towers and Mr. Angleman explained all the different ways that might be used to safely ground the towers.

He then asked how many wires would be on a single tower.

Chairman Young interjected, saying that he felt they were getting away from the true purpose of the hearings - namely the placement or not of transmission lines.

Joe Wall asked about the safety records of the towers.

Mr. Angleman stated that he did not have that data with him, but would bring it in at a later date, if that was acceptable.

He further stated that he did not wish to make light of any accident that might have happened, but the figures were so slight, that they didn't impress him as being anything to really be concerned about.

George Schmelzer stated that Sound Avenue was approximately three rods wide or fifty feet and then asked how many pipes could be laid underneath.

Mr. Angleman stated that if they could use the entire fifty feet, all the way down, five pipes would physically fit underneath.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Schmelzer then asked if it was possible to lay the pipes on different levels, say three on the bottom and two on top.

Mr. Angleman stated that it was possible, but not feasible.

Mr. Schmelzer asked how big the underground conduits were.

Mr. Angleman replied that they were 10 3/4" in outside diameter, 1/2" coating, associated with a return pipe of approximately 6 9/16ths in diameter.

Mr. Schmelzer asked if there would be any detectable heat on the surface.

Mr. Angleman replied that there would be no noticeable heat on the surface.

Vernon Wells, Jr. asked if there would be any compensation for farmers who rented their farms, but would lose a year's crop, if the underground lines went in.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would have to know the terms stated in their leases, before he could figure out if they would be entitled to receive compensation or not.

Mr. Nohejl spoke on the golden nematode problem on Long Island farms and asked if an impact study had been made on this problem and what, if any, compensation would the farmers get, if the construction machinery started up and spread this problem again.

Mr. Walsh checked his material and stated that apparently, no study had been made regarding the impact of the nematode, but if the problem arose because of the construction, LILCO would have to take steps to deal with it and correct the situation.

Further discussion ensued.

Extensive discussion on the corridor width for a 138KV line followed.

Mr. Angleman read from the application and tried to explain to Mr. Nohejl, just how they arrived at their figures.

Chairman Young stated again that he felt they were getting off the subject of the hearing and asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Richard Larsen expressed deep concern for the lines that ran from Shoreham to the Calverton substation and asked if they would have to double the amount of lines on that route if a second Shoreham plant was needed.

He further asked if it was possible to lay the pipes underground, because of the proximity of the school.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mr. Angleman stated that he had explained before, that after the 345KV line was built along that right-of-way, no further construction would follow, regardless of whether another unit is needed or not.

He then stated that they have not proposed any underground line for that route.

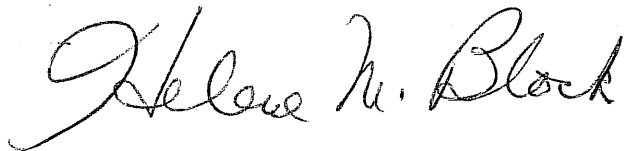
Joe Wall asked what percentage of the power going through these lines would go to the people of Riverhead.

Mr. Walsh stated that 100% of the power being used now in Riverhead, comes from Nassau County, Northport and other areas.

He further stated that if the Jamesport plant is built, he has no idea what percentage.

Chairman Young stated that he could assure everyone that the Town Board would work diligently to arrive at a satisfactory solution and thanked everyone for coming.

Chairman Young then declared the Hearing closed at 10:15 P.M. and re-opened the Meeting to announce that the Town Board will meet at the Town Hall on February 6th, 1976, at 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of auditing bills and any other matters that might come before the Board.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helene M. Block". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the center-right of the page.

HMB/mhj

Helene M. Block, Town Clerk